

# City of Charleston Neighborhood Spotlight

## Ashley Hall Manor Neighborhood Association

Ashley Hall Manor (located between Sam Rittenberg Blvd., Ashley Hall Rd. and Orange Grove Rd.) is a single family neighborhood comprised of 213 homes. Developed in the late 1950s, its location provides quick access to downtown, local beaches, neighboring municipalities, and the local airport. This is just one of many reasons it is a very appealing and desirable place to call home.

With the assistance of the City's Neighborhood Services, Ashley Hall Manor revived a previously established civic organization as a neighborhood association in 2006. The organization gained status in the Neighborhood Council, and the association meets twice a year. Dues have always been a voluntary \$12.00 per year, and with the average meeting attendance around 35 to 60 residents. At every meeting, there are guest speakers including the Mayor, school principals, businesses, City staff, and more. Meetings usually address issues based on our residents' comments and concerns. Lately, we have moved to Facebook as a way to inform neighbors of a myriad of issues, while also delivering a flyer to each home prior to a meeting. Our West Ashley location at times presents issues to address, such as:

- Speed humps were petitioned and installed to control speeding through the neighborhood.
- Ashley Hall Manor was the first neighborhood in the city to purchase and install blue reflective street signs, identifying and illuminating the streets for emergence responders, visitors, and residents.
- The neighborhood placed No Parking signs along Sam Rittenberg Blvd to maintain green space.
- A small business expo was held to support local businesses.
- There are 3 entrances to the neighborhood with signs and beautification, maintained by residents.
- Our neighborhood has donated to the organizations of 10,000 Trees and the Policeman's Fund.
- We have recently worked with City officials to complete a storm water project on Falmouth Street. Ditches have been excavated to allow water to flow to the drain system, and that work continues.
- Charleston Country recently repaved the neighborhood, for which we are ecstatic!
- Tree trimming in the front and rear of homes is ongoing to prepare for storms.
- Ashley Hall Manor continues to reach out to neighboring District 9 neighborhoods to become engaged.

As president of the neighborhood association, I was inspired in 2006 by a friend who told me about the Neighborhood Services. I decided to reach out to my neighbors and find ways to serve. In 2009, I started a neighborhood social to help struggling local businesses during the recession. I became a member of the Old Charlestowne District 9 Task Force, and served as the chair in 2010. In that role, I worked with developers and City and County councilmembers. I was a founding member of Stand Up West Ashley, which became a model for Stand Up Charleston. I have been awarded the Harold Koon Award for Excellence in Volunteer Service from the City of Charleston and serve on the Neighborhood Commission.

- Michael Allen, Neighborhood President

